(c) The Westland helicopters have been grounded with effect from 9.2.1991.

Statement

The Findings of the Technical Sub Committee

The Committee has submitted its report. The findings of the report are as follows:—

a. Modification action by M|s. Westland Helicopters Limited and M|s Rolls Royce as recommended by Dr. Hussainy Committee report have by and large not been complied with.

b. It is also noted that M|s. WHL have refused to carry out a proving trail for the heicopter which is a tacit acceptance by WHL that they have little confidence in their machine.

c. The number of defects noted during the 3 monthly period of trial by PHL has indicated that the number of defects has not come down. As a matter of fact a new range of defects not brought out by Dr. Hussainy committee report have also surfaced. Two of these defects led to precautionary and one to emergency landing. Following of these defects have flight safety implications:

i. Lossening of rivets on tail transmission shaft.

ii. Structural damage on frame of tail boom.

iii. High unservaceability of floata tion gear bags.

iv. Ripping up of the top skin of main rotor blade.

v. It is noted that due to high defect arisings the consumption of spares and rotables is abnormal and is beyond Westland's logistic support capability. This has led to a very high incidence of AOG and no improvement in situation is anticipated.

vi. The very high maintenance cost pegs the break-even figure to 11 out of 19 helicopters which is just not achievable because of the factors annunciated above.

vii. In view of the foregoing PHL would find itself in perpetual loss situation.

viii. The past experience indicates that M|s. WHL and RR will not respond in a very positive fashion to the technical problems. It is also felt that the number of problems being faced is of such diverse nature that a cost effective solution is beyond control of M|s. Westland and RR.

ix. The pilots of Westland have categorically stated that they have no confidence in the machine and consider it unsafe till allmodifications are carried out. The ONGC staff feel that the helicopter is unsafe and have threatened to stop reporting for duty

Programmes to raise crude oil production

112. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the short-term/long-term programmes drawn up by Government to raise crude oil production from Bombay High, from Assam shelf and from Cambay, Cauvery and Krishna—Godavari basins in view of the Gulf crisis; and

(b) what is the anticipated percentage of rise in crude production and by what time these measures are likely to show results?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) The current indigenous production of crude oil is around 33 million tonnes per annum, and this is sought to be raised to 50 million tonnes per annum by the terminal year of the 8th Plan period. To achieve this, a number of development schemes would have to be implemented. The Government has

already sanctioned the Neelam and Mukta oil field development projects, and other projects envisaged to be taken up during the VIII Plan period are:

(i) Project for the additional development of L-II and L-III reservoir of Bombay High Oil field;

(ii) Project for the development of Gandhar Oil field;

(iii) Project for the development of the RAVVA offshore oil-field.

Apart from this, ONGC has done infill drilling in certain developed fields such as Kalol, Ankleshwar, Bombay High etc. and is evaluating the prospects of enhanced oil recovery in certain other fields with pilot projects. Contingency plans have also been taken up to delineate the new discoveries like R-15A and B-127-I at a faster rate.

In the short term, ONGC is seeking the liquidation of sick wells on priority basis, for which a Task Force has been set up. Wells become sick and require revival during the normal course of production due to repeated stimulation cusping, lngering of gas and water, ageing of wells etc.

(b) Normally, putting a new field/ discovery on production requires a gestation period of 4-5 years. Raising oil output requires long-term planning, and it is not possible to take any short term measures, in view of the Gulf crisis. Almost a 50 percent rise in crude oil production is envisaged during the VIIT Plan period.

Impact of Gulf War on the country's Oil Economy

113. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:

SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the overall impact of Gulf war on the country's oil economy stating:—

(i) the quantum of oil imported (with value in foreign exchange) since the outbreak of Gulf war;

(ii) the countries from which oil was imported (with value in foreign exchange in each case);

(iii) the percentage by which the gap between demand and supply of oil is met with imports;

(b) by what percentage the domestic production of oil and its refining capacity has been stepped up since the outbreak of Gulf war; and

(c) what measures are being taken by Government to tackle the problem?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) Since the out-break of Gulf war, 2226 MMT crude oil has been imported by India upto 15th February, 1991. Value of this crude oil is estimated to be around US $ 300 million. Crude oil imports are effected both under term contracts and through spot purchases. Spot purchases are not relatable to specific countries. Therefore, it is not possible to give country-wise details of imports.

The percentage of country's requirements of crude oil and petroleum products, which is planned to be imported during the current financial year to cover the gap between demand and supply of oil, is 40.2 per cent and 15.8 per cent respectively.

(b) The overall domestic crude oil production and crude oil refining capacity in our country is almost at its maximum achievable capacity. Stepping up domestic crude oil production and refining capacity requires long term action plans. One month period which has passed since the out-break of the Gulf war is too short a period to implement any long term actions